



HR0293

LRB099 11483 MST 32547 r

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of
3 Representatives are saddened to learn of the death of Gordon
4 "Gordie" Gillespie, who passed away on February 28, 2015; and

5 WHEREAS, Gordie Gillespie was born in Chicago on April 14,
6 1926 to Earl and Belle (nee Ross) Gillespie; he attended Kelvyn
7 Park High School and graduated from DePaul University; he
8 served in the United States Navy from 1944 to 1946; and

9 WHEREAS, Gordie Gillespie began his coaching career in 1950
10 at what is now Lewis University, when he took over the men's
11 basketball program; he remained there until 1965; he also
12 coached the Flyers baseball team from 1953 to 1976 and was
13 athletic director from 1956 to 1976; and

14 WHEREAS, Gordie Gillespie made 8 trips to the National
15 Association of Intercollegiate Athletics World Series during
16 his tenure with Lewis University and won 3 consecutive national
17 titles from 1974 to 1976; in 1975 and 1976, he also coached
18 Joliet Catholic High School to 2 of the 5 State championships
19 that he won during a 27-year stint that began in 1959; and

20 WHEREAS, In 1976, Gordie Gillespie moved from Lewis
21 University to St. Francis University; he was the school's

1 athletic director from 1976 to 1986; he coached the Saints'
2 first women's basketball team in the 1976-77 season and was
3 baseball coach from 1976 to 1995; he got back into football in
4 1986, when he launched the St. Francis program; and

5 WHEREAS, Gordie Gillespie never truly retired; he moved to
6 Ripon, Wisconsin in 1996, where he assumed the role of head
7 baseball coach, assisted his son in basketball, and took the
8 Ripon High School football team to its first ever state
9 championship; and

10 WHEREAS, After 10 seasons at Ripon High School, Gordie
11 Gillespie came back to St. Francis University for his second
12 stint as the school's baseball coach; he coached 6 more seasons
13 with the Saints, retiring in 2011 with 1,893 victories - the
14 most by a college baseball coach at any level at the time; and

15 WHEREAS, Gordie Gillespie he was inducted into Joliet
16 Catholic's Hall of Champions in 2014; and

17 WHEREAS, Gordie Gillespie collected 2,402 coaching wins in
18 3 different sports over 61 years; he led teams to 4 national
19 titles in college baseball and 5 State titles in high school
20 football; and

21 WHEREAS, Gordie Gillespie was preceded in death by his

1 parents; his wife, Emily; his brother, Earl Gillespie; his aunt
2 and uncle, Howard and Helen Ammeson; his cousin, Donald Ross;
3 his 2 step-sons; and his step-grandson; and

4 WHEREAS, Gordie Gillespie is survived by his wife, Joan
5 Hollister Gillespie; his sons, Bob (Penny), Mike (Connie),
6 Gordie, Jr. (Patty), and Greg (Denise); his 3 daughters, Billie
7 K. (Ron) Shimanski-Lipke, Margaret Mary (John)
8 Gillespie-Koenig, and Jacqueline (Steve) Turk
9 Gillespie-Horvat; his cousin, Doris Pretz; his step-children,
10 Reverend Bruce (Susan) Hollister, Linda (Reverend David)
11 Brown, Betsy (Don) Dvorak, and Brian (Priscilla) Hollister; his
12 40 grandchildren; his 42 great-grandchildren; and numerous
13 nieces and nephews; therefore, be it

14 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
15 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
16 mourn the passing of Gordon "Gordie" Gillespie, and extend our
17 sincere condolences to his family, friends, and all who knew
18 and loved him; and be it further

19 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
20 presented to the family of Gordie Gillespie as an expression of
21 our deepest sympathy.